

Message Text

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ACTION EB-07

INFO OCT-01 ARA-06 EUR-12 ISO-00 AID-05 CIAE-00 COME-00

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FM AMEMBASSY CARACAS

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INFO AMEMBASSY BRIDGETOWN

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AMEMBASSY NASSAU

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY PORT AU PRINCE

AMEMBASSY PORT OF SPAIN

AMEMBASSY SANTO DOMINGO

AMCONSUL CURACAO

AMEMBASSY MARTINIQUE

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ETRD, VE

SUBJECT: HIGH LEVEL MEETING OF CARIBBEAN STATES ON TOURISM

1. THE FIRST CONFERENCE ON TOURISM IN THE CARIBBEAN AREA WILL BE HELD IN CARACAS, JANUARY 9 THROUGH 11, WITH VENEZUELAN PRESIDENT CARLOS ANDRES PEREZ INAUGURATING THE MEETING AND PETER MORGAN, PRIME MINISTER OF BARBADOS, PRESIDING. ACCORDING TO A PRESS INTERVIEW WITH FRANK BRICENO FORTIQUE, PRESIDENT OF THE GOV CORPORATION TO PROMOTE TOURISM (CORPOTURISMO), THE FOLLOWING HAVE AGREED TO ATTEND: ST. KITTS, MARTINIQUE, ARUBA, CURACAO, LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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AND BONAIRE, THE DOMINICAN REPUBLIC, ST. THOMAS, THE VIRGIN

ISLANDS, ANGUILLA, PUERTO RICO, ST. MARTIN, GUYANA, ANTIGUA, BAHAMAS, AND DOMINICA. HE IS AWAITING CONFIRMATIONS FROM THE CAYMAN ISLANDS, GRENADA, GUADELOUPE, JAMAICA, HAITI, ST. LUCIA, ST. VINCENT, TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO, AND THE TURKS AND CAICOS ISLANDS. THE NEWSPAPER REPORT INDICATED THAT VARIOUS HEADS OF GOVERNMENT WOULD ATTEND. HOWEVER, MOST OF THE PARTICIPANTS HAVE NOT YET SPECIFIED THE LEVEL OF THEIR REPRESENTATION.

2. BRICENO STATED THT THE MEETING WOULD DEAL WITH THREE SUBJECT AREAS:

- A. THE PROBLEM OF "FINANCING AND REFINANCING" TOURISM;
- B. TRANSPORTATION AND MARKET TECHNOLOGY;
- C. THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN THE MANUFACTURING AND AGRICULTURAL INDUSTRIES, AND THE DEVELOPMENT OF TOURISM.

3. BRICENO ALSO EXPECTS THE ATTENDANCE OF THE VENEZUELAN FINANCE MINISTER AND OTHER GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS; REPRESENTATIVES FROM UNIVERSITIES; CARIBBEAN RESEARCH INSTITUTIONS; THE CARIBBEAN DEVELOPMENT BANK; CARIBBEAN CENTERR FOR THE STUDY OF TOURISM; THE INTER-AMERICAN DEVELOPMENT BANK AND OTHER INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS; AND REPRESENTATIVES FROM HOTELS AND TRAVEL AGENCIES.

4. COMMENT: IT IS UNLIKELY THAT THE GOV WILL GIVE THE SAME DEGREE OF ATTENTION TO THIS SPECIALIZED MEETING, EVEN IF SEVERAL HEADS OF GOVERNMENT DO ATTEND, AS IT DID TO THE RECENTLY HELD MEETING OF THE CENTRAL AMERICAN PRESIDENTS IN CIUDAD GUYANA, AND AS IT WILL TO THE PROSPECTIVE MEETING OF CARIBBEAN PRESIDENTS IN LATE JANUARY OR EARLY FEBRUARY. NEVERTHELESS, VENEZUELA'S INITIATIVES TOWARD CUBA AT THE QUITO OAS MEETING, THE RECENT CENTRAL AMERICAN PRESIDENTS' MEETING, THE FORTHCOMING CARIBBEAN PRESIDENTS' MEETING, AND THIS PROPOSED MEETING OF CARIBBEAN ISLAND CHIEFS, FORM A PATTERN OF HIGH-LEVEL GOV INITIATIVES COVERING THE ENTIRE CARIBBEAN AREA. IT IS LIKELY, AS THE ANNOUNCED AGENDA OF THIS MEETING ON TOURISM INDICATES, THAT PEREZ WILL AGAIN USE THE GOV'S FINANCIAL RESOURCES TO EXTEND VENEZUELA'S POLITICAL AND COMMERCIAL INFLUENCE IN THE CARIBBEAN. MCCLINTOCK

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